

JEAN KENT ANGUS

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Jean Kent Angus

(1879 -       )

Jean Kent Angus was only a year old when the Angus family arrived in Honolulu from Canada on October 13, 1880. Her maternal grandfather, Gideon West, had been living in Honolulu as early as 1873 and had encouraged his daughter to come to Hawaii to live.

Gideon West bought property on the plains in Makiki and in Waikiki and founded the Hawaiian Carriage Manufacturing Company on Queen Street.

Miss Angus attended public schools and the Territorial Normal School and started teaching at the Royal School before the turn of the century. She continued teaching in local schools until her retirement in 1945.

Miss Kent was interviewed on August 8, 1971 at the age of ninety-one. Although she admittedly had difficulty recalling details, her story is a lively one, full of good humor and interesting anecdotes about people, places, and Hawaiian history.

Lynda Mair, Interviewer

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INTERVIEW WITH MISS JEAN KENT ANGUS

At her Pohai Nani home, 45-090 Namoku Street, Kaneohe, 96744

August 8, 1971

A: Jean Kent Angus

M: Lynda Mair, Interviewer

M: Okay. You were telling me about your grandfather's business.

A: Yes. Well, he was here. That's why we came out, because my grandfather came out here. My grandfather came as a businessman and he settled here and he saw what kind of life that my mother would lead out here. She was a farmer's wife in Canada and he knew that my mother wasn't suited for that kind of a life. They were like pioneers, you know, and life wasn't easy. So that's why we came out, through my grandfather coming first.

He was a businessman and he had a carriage factory. He imported carriages and he repaired. He had like a foundry where he could repair carriages. [Hawaiian Carriage Manufacturing Company, 70 Queen Street.] He was in that business I don't know how long, but it seems that he got in a tight place in business where he couldn't raise \$75,000, and so Dillingham and Schuman came in and they took the business over. [Benjamin Franklin Dillingham was a businessman who organized the Oahu Railway and Land Company in 1889 and the Pacific Hardware Company in 1898 when he purchased Castle & Cooke, Ltd.'s merchandise business. The other buyer would have been Schuman Carriage Company, Ltd.] Then they imported carriages too. That's what my grandfather started in to do, was to import these carriages and then at this foundry or this factory they had to repair them and take care of them.

Then he got into this jam and he just couldn't raise any money and so he just had to lose what he'd put into it, but he never gave up. He always had business on commission, you see, and could; and then he bought property and was able to go on from there. But that was quite a shock because he thought he could carry on, you know, and in those days it wasn't easy to carry on. 'Course now, well, maybe banks would help you. But anyway, he had to give that up

and from then on he had real estate and went into the, well, like a commission business. He could order things and he had a little office where he could do that kind of work.

M: Where did your grandfather come from?

A: He came from. . .(long pause) I think he settled in Canada from Boston. I'm not sure. Seems to me he was a merchant in Canada, in Amherst, Nova Scotia. And then he went from Canada out to British Columbia and from British Columbia he went to San Francisco; and from San Francisco, he went to the Islands. See, that was before.

M: And where was your grandmother? Was she with him?

A: No, my grandmother died but he married again and I don't know much about her. But then I think that, of course, she lived like the people lived here at that time. I don't remember much about her. I know she was haole.

M: Uh huh. I thought perhaps he was from Scotland.

A: Oh no. No. Grandfather was alone when he was in Canada. He had three daughters and my mother was the youngest and they always could get along, you know. One married a businessman and the other married a minister and they were settled; but my mother was trying to live on a farm and my father could see that she wasn't that material and with four children, she could live a wonderful life here. And that's why she came out with my father and four children. So I've been here ever since. (laughter)

[Data from written notes: Mr. and Mrs. Angus were married in Nova Scotia in 1872. The Angus family arrived in Honolulu from Canada on October 13, 1880. There were four children: George, 8; Myra, 6; Fred, 4; and Jean Kent, 1 or 2. A fifth child, Ethel, was born in Honolulu. Miss Angus' maternal grandfather, Gideon West, was living in Honolulu as early as 1873. He bought property on the plains near Punahou School and went into business selling and repairing carriages, hacks, and other horse-drawn vehicles. His carriage factory was on Queen Street next to Mr. King's feed and grain business.]

M: What did your father do for a living then?

A: Well, he wasn't trained for any job but he was a farmer's son that always took life pretty easy, and so when he got out here, first he had a position in the carriage factory.

Then, after that, why, he just had all kinds of little hobbies that he liked to do and we, of course, had a comfortable home. (sound of a helicopter)

When we first came we had to live in a hotel in back of The Liberty House [a department store on Fort Street near King Street] and there was a meat market back in there, after I was going to school. But I don't ever remember the hotel there. Then there was another hotel on King Street, just on the corner of King and Fort [probably The Hamilton owned by Mr. H. Johnson in 1890], just below; and then, of course, the Young Hotel came along later [July 3, 1903] and so we changed three past. (a clock strikes three as she is saying this and she chuckles. She probably means they lived in those three different hotels.)

M: Did your family buy a home eventually?

A: No, we always rented a home but my grandfather had a home out in Makiki and he had another one at Waikiki. Then when he got so that he couldn't do anything in business, why, he just gave up and then my mother took over. She was a businesswoman and earned a living for us. So I'm still living on her efforts. (laughter)

M: Where did you go to school?

A: Well, I went to public school. I went to the old Fort Street School. It was on the corner of School Street and the head of Fort Street.

M: And then high school?

A: My brother and sister went to Punahou [School: George Hibbard Angus, class of 1892, married Elizabeth Marie Grace; Ethel Angus, class of 1903, married John Howard Ellis] and my brother, Fred, went to public school and my sister, Myra, and I went to Fort Street School. First we went to kindergarten, I think, and then to Fort Street School, and then my sister went to California--to Mills [College]--for just a year and when she got back, why, she took a job as a secretary and earned a pretty good living. I was always a lame duck. (laughter)

M: What did you do after you finished school, then?

A: Well then, I took training for a teacher. I taught in the public schools but I always taught in the second and third grade, so it was very easy.

M: Uh huh. You went to the Normal School?

A: Yes, um hm.

M: Where did you teach then?

A: I taught at the Royal School when Canon McIntosh was there. He was the minister in the Episcopal church. He wasn't the principal but he came every morning and he had a little prayer when he came in. And he. . .oh, he had the priory [St. Andrew's Priory for Girls], you see, but before he'd go there he came to visit our school because he knew some of the teachers there that went to the [St. Andrew's] Cathedral. I've forgotten who my first principal was there. I think it was Canon McIntosh but I was only there a short time. I think it was a substitute and then later two people came in to be principals. Let's see, there was a Mr. Davis was one of my principals and Mr. Smith from Hilo. I guess he was the last one there. But before, there was another principal. Oh, my brain is no good. (chuckles) [Miss Angus began teaching school just before the turn of the century.]

M: No, you're doing great. (Miss Angus laughs)

A: Well, you know, you can work from certain places and get the background but I can't remember all the details. We had a very exciting life here because we had royalty and I can remember the things that were going on at the [Iolani] Palace were very interesting.

M: Can you remember some of those things you're talking about?

A: Well, I remember my first visit to the palace. Mother got us all dressed up when we were to go to the palace to be presented. I can't remember now what it was. I said, "What will I do?" And Mother said, "Oh, you have to just bow and that's all." So when I got to the door and I saw the king [Kalakaua] sitting up on the throne in the front of the room, I started to bow and I bowed to the footman. (laughter) I think my mother gave me a little jerk and I came along. I would have been bowing all the way along. (laughter)

M: That was Kalakaua.

A: Yes, um hm. It wasn't in the throne room. It was in a smaller room. I don't know whether it was some special group that was meeting. Of course I wouldn't remember, but it was just too much for me to see them in their uniforms, you know. They wore those short trousers and I think red breeches and orange coats. They were quite colorful.

And then, of course, King Kalakaua had a boathouse and he would go down to his boathouse in the afternoon and meet his friends there and play cards. Just as he came down to his boardwalk, was the end of our property where we lived and he would get out of the carriage and walk along the boardwalk out to his boathouse. Then his friends would come down there and they'd play cards. Then when it was time to go back, he'd come back on the boardwalk and take his carriage. His carriage looked like a great big hack and it was lined with red leather.

We always knew when he was coming because Hala, an old native woman that lived in the property that was in front of that area--used by the retainers of the Hawaiians and the retainers, I think, of the king's people--[would begin to wail]. We always knew when the king was coming. We could hear her wailing and she'd follow his carriage for maybe two blocks down to the pier--to the boardwalk--and she would always be wailing. And of course, we children would drop everything and we'd run out and wave to the king and he always gave us a nice bow. (laughter)

M: What was the idea of being presented to the king? Did everybody do this at some point or other?

A: No. No. I think it was a special thing and I think the children were supposed to go, you know, but it wasn't a great big affair. But I know I can see the throne and I guess there were bodyguards and they were dressed in gay uniforms. I think they were colorful. I don't remember what the material was but as I remember, they were very colorful. And of course, I began to bow the minute I saw something that looked like something different. (laughter)

M: Well, then what happened after you got through teaching? You got married? No.

A: I never got married. I'm an old maid.

M: Oh, I see. (laughter)

A: I wouldn't be a farmer's wife for anything.

M: Well, you said you just taught for a little while, then what? What did you do after you taught school?

A: I taught until--we had two wars in between time. I taught . . . oh dear. (someone else in the room says, "I think she taught several years in the state system." Miss Angus says, "What's that, dear?" and the other person says, "You taught a lot of years for the state system, didn't you?") Yes. I taught at the Royal School first and that was at the head

of Emma Street and I wasn't there very long. And then later we had another principal and then we had Mr. Davis and he was very funny.

Then from there I went to a little school over near the hospital and I taught with Mapuana Peters and her sister, Daisy. [Mapuana Smith Peters graduated from Punahou Academy in 1922 and married Louis Quarles McComas after attending the Territorial Normal School and the University of California.] There were just the three of us there in that little school right. . .

M: Next to Queen's Hospital.

A: Next to the hospital, um hm. Say, this is nothing you can use.

M: Yes it is. Yes it is. About how many children would you have?

A: Oh, we would have forty.

M: Forty children, in the whole school.

A: No, for each room. We were pretty well crowded and we only had three grades in that little school and I had second grade. I always had second grade. We were only there a short time.

From there I went to Manoa School, a little school up in Manoa Valley and that was a darling little school. Maggie Brown was the principal. Charlotte Cowan, over here now [at Pohai Nani retirement home], was one of the teachers there when I was there.

From there I went to Pohukaina School way down at the foot of Punchbowl Street. No. Where was it? Oh no, it was. . . . You know, that area has so changed. From the king's boathouse, right at the foot of Punchbowl Street, that was all water. And the king's boathouse was out on the water and then the Marine Railway was just to the left and that road went around by the edge of the water to the boathouse. And there was a Myrtle boathouse and a Leialani boathouse, the two clubs, and then, I don't know what the year would be but they started to. . . . Oh, I guess we had left that home and had moved to Richards Street where the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] is now. That area was all, you know--there were private houses all in that block.

M: Across from the [Iolani] Palace?

A: Yes, on Richards Street. There were just private homes



until you came to Hotel Street. Then there was the old Royal Hawaiian Hotel and that was very popular and very lovely and we had friends that lived there. And we lived right opposite the palace where the YWCA is now.

M: In a private home?

A: Yes, a cottage. Of course when we lived there I went to the old Fort Street School and we walked from there to the old school.

M: Let's see. Where were we? (laughter) We just came back to where we started. Where did you teach after Pohukaina?

A: I retired.

M: You did. What year was that? (long pause)

A: I'm not sure. This is funny. I haven't thought of these things for so long, I guess I'm a bit hazy. (chuckles)

M: Before the war?

A: Oh yes. You see, I--no, I retired after the war. The war was over in 1945 and I retired at that time. 1945. And then after I had taught at the Manoa School, why, I taught at Pohukaina School and my sister was the principal of that school and she retired--I've forgotten what year. She must have retired in, well I guess maybe 1940 and then I retired a few years later.

M: Can you go back and remember any. . . . Let's see. Do you remember anything of the annexation, the revolution, and all that stuff?

A: Oh yes. We were living on Punchbowl Street.

M: Just a minute. Let me see if I've still got some tape left. Okay. Go ahead. (Lynda laughs)

A: I don't know what I was going to do.

M: We were going to talk about the revolution and annexation.

A: Oh yes, all through that too. The revolution, we were living down at the foot of Punchbowl Street and we children didn't know what was happening but we could hear the shots whistling. We had a big coconut grove and we could hear the shots whistling through the trees. And of course my Mother was very much excited and the first thing my mother

and father did was to get ready to leave because they were shooting and the shots were coming over our property, but not too many of the shots, because I remember one that hit the side of the house. And we had that shot [bullet] for a long time and I don't know whatever happened to it. But anyway, let's go on with the rest of the things.

The first thing we did was to get away. We had a two-seated carriage with one horse and we got into the carriage and came up Nuuanu Valley to in back of the cemetery. The Reverend [Lowell] Smith lived there. That would be Mrs. [B. F.] Dillingham's mother and father. [She was Emma Louise Smith.] They had lived there. He was a minister. We got up as far as that and when we got there, the Smiths weren't there, but the people who were living there said, "Why, come right in. Stay with us." So we did and when the worst was over--we stayed there two or three days maybe--we went back to Punchbowl, because the fighting didn't last very long, you know.

M: Yeh, right. A short . . .

A: This was an uprising.

M: Do you remember anything else that happened then?

A: (long pause) Of course we went through that period where we had Royalists and annexation people, you know. There were the Royalists and what were the others? Provisional government. See, we had the Provisional government then. Sometimes there was quite a bit of feeling between the Royalists and the Provisional government people. And so, I haven't a good memory and I wasn't terribly interested.

M: Do you remember anything of Liliuokalani?

A: Liliuokalani? Oh yes. You know she was dethroned and she lived in the quarters. . . . Oh, was she living in Washington Place?

M: I think she was.

A: Yes, she was living in Washington Place and I think she, of course, did what she could but the businessmen saw that we should be annexed because the Japs [Japanese] could have taken us; anybody could have taken us. And the Americans were here and I think it was the best thing that ever happened to the Islands when America took over. And of course, we had people that were Royalists and people had felt--there was a little feeling, but in our family there never was.

M: Um hm. Your folks were for the. . .

A: Hmm?

M: Your parents favored the. . .

A: Oh yes. We could see that there would have to be a change sometime. (long pause)

M: Well, let's see. (the recorder is turned off and on again)

A: The steamers had to be repaired and we had a marine railway where those steamers came up onto the--I don't know what you call the things that go up and down like a. . .

M: Elevator?

A: No, well, how would they get the steamers up--the little island steamers up onto the drydock? (Someone else in the room says, "Crane?") Crane?

M: No, they didn't have cranes then. [Variations of the modern crane have been in use for hundreds of years, probably; however, Miss Angus may have been trying to think of the block and tackle means of hoisting ships to dry dock. The dry dock itself might be "a floating structure which may be partially submerged to permit a vessel to enter, and then raised to lift the vessel out of the water for repairs."]

A: Well anyway, the steamers had to be repaired and they were just across from the king's boathouse and of course that was all water. And then from the pier, where you went down to the boathouse, as far as you could see was water. And that's when they started dredging, to dredge the harbor and that was very interesting when that was done. Life during that time. I know we used to go down there and try to gather shells. You know they would stir up the sand. I wish I had some of the shells that we had sometime. (chuckles)

M: When you first lived there, could you just go down to the beach and swim there?

A: No, because it was too deep. It was just shallow [but] when the tide came in, it came right up to our front fence and when the tide went out, there was like just a wet area.

M: I see, so they dug that all out.

A: Yes, the swimming was not good. And then all that area

was just flat. Just great, oh I'd say, blocks. You see, Queen Street was the last street. There wasn't any Halekauwila [Street]. There weren't any streets down below. That was all water.

M: I see. Boy, that must have really. . .

A: A lot of changes. And you know, I've never been interested in telling about any of these things because I thought everybody knew.

M: But it's not true. Really. (laughter) Ah, what was I going to ask you? Oh, did you do any traveling around among the different islands?

A: Oh yes, every summer we would go to. . . (long pause). We would go to Waikiki in the summer. [She may have misunderstood the question.] My grandfather had property out there--a beach place--and we'd go out there for the summer and then we'd go to different places where we could swim and have a picnic. And to an island. We had our Sunday School picnics there. And then of course. . .

#### END OF SIDE 1/1ST TAPE

We went out on one of the Pacific mail boats to Japan and then we went to Hong Kong and we left the steamer there. We went to Shanghai and Macao and had a nice visit and then we took a little island steamer to the Philippines. We were planning to go on a big steamer but that was overcrowded. There was an opera company that had filled that up and my sister and I said, "Well, if you don't go now, we won't be able to get to Manilla." So when we found there was no room on the big steamer, we found we could get a smaller steamer that would take us. Of course we were a bit nervous because we knew they had these typhoons that were serious and to go on a smaller steamer to the Philippines was quite an event. Anyway, we decided to go and we got on the steamer. Oh, there was the most beautiful sunset. It was just gorgeous. And this little steamer had an English captain and an English first officer and the rest were all Chinese. We sat out on the deck, waiting to see if the big steamer would go out, 'cause our captain was an Englishman and he came around and he said, "I won't go out in this typhoon if that big steamer doesn't go out." So we just thought, oh, fine. It was just lovely sitting there and that sun-sight was so beautiful and the captain was so nice. He knew that we were disappointed that we didn't get on the big steamer. So finally we saw the big steamer go out and Myra said, "Here it is. We're going out

as the typhoon signals. Here we are." And out we went. Well, we got into the most terrific typhoon. It was awful. I just thought we never would get there. The steamer would begin to go down, down, down. I thought, Oh, this is it. Now. (laughter)

It was a Chinese crew and the captain felt so sorry. He knew we were discouraged and we were afraid and he sent down a note every so often to tell us that things were still going. (laughter) And of course we didn't feel like eating anything and there wasn't anybody to fix us anything but he had the first officer that was an Englishman come down and give us canned milk. Mixed it with water, you know, and that's all we had for about three days or four days. And then the crew down below, moving the cargo, and things go bang, bang, bang. This time we answer, "Oh, we're down." (laughter) Then we'd bob up.

M: But you made it.

A: Oh yes. And then when we got into Manilla, here was this big steamer in ahead of us with everything hanging out on the sails to dry--clothes, blankets, carpets, everything. We were the only passengers on the little boat and then they told us that that other boat, the big boat, was so crowded, some of the people acted terribly. But we didn't have any of that. We were just ourselves and we thought we never would make it. Each time the boat would go down I'd think, Well, this is it.

M: When was this?

A: What year?

M: Um hm.

A: Oh dear, I wish I could remember. Well anyway, when we arrived in Manilla, why, we were just on top of the world because we were invited to visit over in Cavite, the navy base and it was across the river. When we were visiting the doctor and his wife we, of course, wanted to see as much as we could of the city, so every morning we'd come over. And when we came over, we could come over on the navy launch which was lovely and we sat back in little wicker chairs. But going home it was very often rough on the river and we would go out and look at the river and decide, Well, shall we? And Myra would say, "Well, if we go by train, we have to buy a ticket and if we go by boat, why, we can have that much more to buy something in the city." Finally, we'd decide and we would come home by train. Very often we'd go over in the launch and come

back by train.

M: You don't know whether this was fifty years ago or more recently?

A: No, I can't remember. I was in Chicago in 1959, then 1969 and it took me the longest time to figure out that I was there really in 1969. I arrived in Chicago December 1968, you see, and in January here it was 1969 and I'd only been there a few days--two weeks in '58--and I just got that straightened out the other day. (laughter)

M: Where did you live while you were teaching here through the years?

A: Well, I told you we lived at the foot of Punchbowl Street, then we moved up to Richards Street right opposite the palace; and then from there we moved to Emma Street and it was just below the Royal School. That's where I lived and that's where I taught next door. And my sister [Myra] taught over on School Street at the old Kauluwela School. And at that time, I taught at the Royal and the little school near the hospital. Then later we moved to Manoa from Emma Street.

M: What part of Manoa did you live in?

A: Well, we lived right on East Manoa Road and it was just before you come to Oahu Avenue and Oahu Avenue goes right up into the valley. Below our property was the university and all that area down there, because we weren't too far from the University [of Hawaii].

M: I see. What happened to your parents?

A: Well, my father died when we were living on Richards Street and my mother died when we moved from Emma Street to Manoa.

M: That was just your sister and yourself then.

A: Yes, just we two. My younger sister [Ethel] married and she had a home on Armstrong Street. And so we lived up there and then when my mother died, why, we lived in Nuuanu, my brother's home.

M: What was your married sister's name?

A: Mrs. Howard Ellis. (long pause)

M: And she lived in Manoa?

- A: Yes, she lived on Armstrong Street and I think she sold her property during the war [1941-45] and I don't know where she lived after that. [In 1961 she was living at 2534 A. East Manoa Road and Myra was at 2534 B. East Manoa Road, according to the Punahou Directory.] (long pause)
- M: Is the married sister Myra?
- A: Yes. Myra W. Angus. My, she was a wonderful sister. (chuckles) Every two years we'd take a trip.
- M: Myra is the one who became Mrs. Howard Ellis.
- A: No. [Ethel became Mrs. Howard Ellis.]
- M: Okay. I didn't think so. Myra was the one that you lived with that was the teacher too.
- A: Yes, she was the older sister. She was the promoter.
- M: Oh, how's that?
- A: Well, I don't know. Every vacation we'd go someplace. We were very very plucky.
- M: Can you tell me something about the people you knew way back there?
- A: Oh dear.
- M: You know, any of the interesting people that you met.
- A: When we lived at the foot of Punchbowl Street, there was a McGuire family and they were part-Hawaiian. They were interesting. Then beyond, just a little farther over on Queen Street was a Hawaiian family that--oh dear. Isn't it awful to not. . .? You know, I haven't thought of these people since the year one. (Lynda laughs then turns off the recorder and turns it on again)
- The McGuires were Hawaiian and the girls were attractive and one married a sailing vessel captain. Mary McGuire was a very attractive part-Hawaiian and there were three of the girls and they were nice neighbors. I don't think there are many of that family left, very few.
- And then there was the Holt family that lived opposite us on Punchbowl Street and they were a big family of part-Hawaiians and they owned property all down in there and they owned property at Makaha, where this new place is being developed [Makaha Valley Inn, now Makaha Resort in

1979]. That valley. I think they owned that valley. I know my sister and I met there one time with one of the girls and the brother. [The Holt family did own Makaha Valley which is now owned by Chinn Ho, Capital Investment Company.]

Annie Holt married a Chinaman and Lizzie Holt married a part-Hawaiian like her own. And the McGuires were part-Hawaiian and the Hawaiian family that lived over near the Judiciary Building on Queen Street were--oh dear, they would be interesting too. Well, one of those women married a Wilcox from Kauai. She married him later in life and--oh, what were their names? Well anyway, they were old-timers there. I don't think there was anybody else that I know. (traffic sounds)

Near the Judiciary Building was Mrs. McCandless that we knew very well. The McCandlesses are quite prominent people here, or they were. They were well-borers, you know. They bored the wells for plantations. [Lincoln L. McCandless was the territory's delegate to Congress, 1932-34.]

Then farther up, near the old Kawaiahao Church, where the library is and all that, were the Hopper family. Margaret Hopper was a Sunday School teacher for years and I can't think of the other sisters' names. [J. A. Hopper was the proprietor of the Honolulu Steam Rice Mill "on the Esplanade, Honolulu" in 1890.]

And then, the King family, you know, that owned the Halekulani Hotel, lived in the next block above, just above the library.

M: Did you know that family?

A: Kimball. They were Kings. They were Wandenburgs. Wandenburgs were old-timers--German family on Kauai--and she was a daughter of the Wandenburg family and she married King and their daughter married [Clifford K.] Kimball and the daughter and Kimball owned the Halekulani Hotel.

M: Oh, I see. [Clifford Kimball married Juliet King.]

A: See, there's a connection there. (long pause then Miss Angus chuckles) You getting bored?

M: No! No! (Miss Angus chuckles again) Fish up some more.

A: Well, you know, these are old-timers and you can get lots more from them. I've forgotten.

M: They're not around, so many of them, you know.

A: What's that?



M: So many of them are not around. They're gone.

A: Yes. Yes, you see, Mrs. Kimball only has her two nieces and, of course, they have come into so much money they just don't know what to do with it. When I knew them when they were little girls, why, they just had everything they needed and now they have more than they can ever use.

M: Disgusting. (laughs) [The Kimballs had two sons.]

A: Um hm. (long pause) Well, I think. . .

M: Can you remember anything about when you first came or when you were. . . ? Let's see, when you came you were only about a year old, right?

A: Yes.

M: So, can you remember anything else from, you know, your first ten years here? Anything about the city, places you lived, or the businesses or people.

A: And the entertainments we had. We always had Sunday School picnics that we looked forward to that were lovely.

M: What church was this?

A: It was the old Bethel Church [located on the west corner of King and Bethel streets from 1833 until 1886 when it was destroyed by fire. On November 13, 1887 the Bethel Church and the Fort Street Church merged into Central Union Church]. And before that it was the old Lyceum Church on Nuuanu Street. [This became a mission of the Central Union Church, headed by Reverend Niyama, one of the first Japanese Protestant ministers in the Islands, and a Sunday School for Japanese children was begun in the Lyceum Building.]

Then we moved over to the corner of Fort and Beretania [streets]. That was the old Bethel Church [It was actually the Fort Street Church, 1856-1892, until the merger with the Bethel Church in 1887].

We moved from there over to the corner of Richards Street and Beretania Street opposite the Governor's Mansion. [On December 4, 1892 the first service was held in Central Union's new stone church with more than one thousand in attendance, including Queen Liliuokalani. All of this information about these churches can be found in Our Heritage by Ernest Andrade, Jr.] There's nothing left of that now.

M: What kind of church was it? What denomination?

A: We were Presbyterians, I think, but it was a Congregational church, I think. [This is correct.] And we had Methodists and we didn't have so many churches. We had big churches and everybody went to them.

M: St. Andrew's was there then.

A: Oh yes, always, um hm. [St. Andrew's Cathedral, Beretania Street and Emma Square, is an Episcopalian church "founded in 1862 at the request of King Kamehameha IV and his wife, Queen Emma, sponsors of the Anglican Episcopal Church in the Islands."]

M: Our Lady of Peace wasn't.

A: I don't think so. [Our Lady of Peace Cathedral on Fort Street near Beretania Street "stands on the grounds where the first grass-thatched Roman Catholic chapel was erected in 1828 by French Missionaries of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts. Ground for the present cathedral was broken on July 9, 1840. The stone building was consecrated August 15, 1843."]

M: Your church was, you said at one point, at the corner of Fort and Beretania and that's where Our Lady of Peace is now.

A: Oh yes. No, it was on the other corner. It was on the corner where that old stone building is. [The Progress Building at 1190 Fort Street Mall.] It was on that corner.

M: Oh, I see.

A: See, and the Catholic church was always on the Fort Street side and then it went through, you see, to that street in back [Bishop Street].

M: Well, I don't want to wear you out completely. (Miss Angus chuckles)

A: I don't think I've been much good.

M: Yes, you have. You have.

A: But I know there're a lot of people that have such wonderful memories. Oh! My mother had a good memory; my sister, Myra, had a good memory; my sister, Ethel, had a good mem-

ory; and I just went along, happy-go-lucky. (laughter)

M: Was Ethel the sister that was. . . . She's the youngest.

A: Yes. And she was born here, you see. She was the only one born here.

M: When did your parents die? Can you remember the year?

A: Ohhh. Yes, I think I do. I know when my mother died. Let's see if I've got that around here someplace.

M: See, I don't have very many dates. That kind of helps.

A: Let me see. We had to be naturalized, you know. My sister and I were naturalized December 27, 1920 in the United States District Court and the judge in the court at that time was Judge Huber. H-U-B-E-R. (the recorder is turned off and on again)

My older brother was one of the Princess Kaiulani's guards and they were an interesting group because at that time there was Walter Dillingham, Mel Whitney, my brother George, the Judd boys. All were active and they drilled, you know. That was the first uprising, I think. [The Revolution of 1893.] I don't remember exactly but I know it was during that time and they'd be able to give you a lot of information.

M: Except they're not here anymore. (laughter)

A: Well, I know they're a little hard to get in touch with.

M: How old were you when you started teaching?

A: I don't know. Let me see. (long pause) I'm ninety-one now so that was a long time ago. (chuckles)

M: Well, were you really a young girl?

A: Yes.

M: Like sixteen or eighteen?

A: I might have been twenty.

M: Twenty or so.

A: I don't know. [After graduating from high school, she attended the Territorial Normal School so she was probably nineteen or twenty when she started teaching.] But we

might put eighteen plus.

M: So you were teaching school before the turn of the century.

A: Yes. And I think I substituted first, you know, and then I got into a regular, permanent job and I was able to have a trip every summer. (chuckles and a bell rings and the recorder is turned off and on again)

. . . was a pink hotel and, you know, that was interesting, that little hotel. And on the opposite side of the street was the old Haleale'a home--Hawaiian home. [Haleale'a means House of Joy.]

M: What kind of home? Haleale'a.

A: Yes.

M: What was it a home for?

A: It was just a family; the native family owned it. A native family owned that property and one of the men was very popular. He was Hawaiian, you know, and one sister married an artist and one married a Vanderbilt in New York --Mrs. Graham. No, Mrs. Graham's daughter married a Vanderbilt. [Annie Douglas Graham married Jay Gould.]

M: Who's Mrs. Graham?

A: Well, she's one of the Haleale'a family and these families, some of them, are very interesting. And Mrs. . . . what was her name? The names have gone from me now. (long pause) Mrs. Graham had a son and a daughter and Mrs. Graham's daughter married a New York millionaire. [Annie Douglas Graham, Punahou 1894-95, married Jay Gould, son of the New York financier and railroad magnate who died in 1892, leaving an estate of eighty million dollars.] And they lived where the old Central Union Church was built upon that property. And opposite was the Governor's Mansion. That was where Queen Liliuokalani lived and this family lived in that block. One was Mrs. [H.] Renjes. She married a German and one married an artist and--isn't it funny, I can't think of them. No use. (laughter)

[John H. and Laura A. Coney lived on the grounds of the University Club, makai of the old Central Union Church. Elizabeth Coney married H. Renjes and Eleanor Coney married John L. Graham, whom she divorced, then Hubert Vos. Both women attended Punahou School in the 1880's.]

A: (after recorder has been turned off and on again) Down

there where we lived was property that royalty had opened up when they had a delegation from Japan of officials. It was opened up for their use and it was an attractive place. It had, well, it was a low building and it was--you went up I guess about ten or twelve steps and they were large steps. Then you went up into a--like a veranda, and then off the veranda was the big living room and there was another room on this side and another room on that side and it opened out on the veranda that went out. And the back of the house was the same. It had steps coming up to this big living room that went right through. You went up these steps and into the big drawing room and then you went out of the room onto a veranda with steps going down the same way.

M: And this was over there by Punchbowl.

A: Hm?

M: Where was this?

A: This was down at the foot of Punchbowl. And that building I think was built for Japanese delegation that came to the Islands and they had to entertain them and they built this building for them. And I don't know what year that would be before we ever used it, because I know there was a family that lived in it before we did--the Mist family--and they were English.

M: This home that you've just described is one that you lived in.

A: Yes.

M: One that you lived in yourself.

A: Yes, and it was used, you see. After the government didn't use it, it was rented and the Mist family rented it. So after they moved out, we moved in and we rented it and then I don't know. I think the property was sold because that area down there was very, very sparsely used. All that area from the king's boathouse out was just an esplanade where dry goods would sometimes be dumped out there. They had no sale for it. I know one time they dumped some stuff out there from [B. F.] Ehlers' dry goods store--fashions store [now The Liberty House]--and there were a lot of hoops [used in hoop skirts] and the children in the neighborhood went out and got them and dressed themselves up (laughter) and trotted around in these hoops. That was way back in the days when they wore hoops. Now tell me

about--have you done much writing? (recorder is turned off)

END OF SIDE 2/1ST TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW

Re-transcribed and edited by Katherine B. Allen, 1979

Note: On page 10, Miss Angus states that there wasn't any Halekauwila Street when her family lived at the foot of Punchbowl Street. However, William A. Simonds, in Kamaaina--A Century in Hawaii, states that "a brick warehouse was erected on Halekauwila Street (Warehouse No. 1) in 1883," by H. Hackfeld & Co., Ltd., the parent company of B. F. Ehlers & Company. "A few years later it was connected with the Court House building by a roofed-over passage which was used as a packing room. Other buildings soon followed, including one which was used as a warehouse for coffee."

H. Hackfeld & Co., Ltd. was dissolved January 20, 1919 when it became American Factors, Ltd. The firm name of B. F. Ehlers & Company was then changed to The Liberty House.

## Additional Data

Page 1 - 2

1892-93 City Directory:

Hawaiian Carriage Manufacturing Co., Ltd., 70 Queen St.  
B. F. Dillingham, president; John M. Angus, foreman  
(Angus's residence: 11 Punchbowl Street)

Honolulu Carriage Factory, 128 and 130 Fort St.  
Gideon West, proprietor; residence Beretania and Punchbowl

California Feed Co., Ltd., Queen near Nuuanu (Old Honolulu  
Iron Works Building) Thomas J. King, president and manager

1900-01 C. D.:

H.C.M. Co., Ltd., Queen St. near government building  
(later designated as Queen opposite Judiciary Building)  
L. M. Whitehouse, president

1905-06 C. D.:

H.C.M. Co., Ltd., 427 Queen Street  
C. W. Ziegler, president and manager

Page 3 Re Angus Residence (also Page 12)

1900-01 C. D.:

Sarah M. Angus (widow), 1491 Emma Street  
(At same address: Ethel, student; Jean, teacher; Myra,  
teacher Kauluwela; George H., manager hardware depart-  
ment, Theo. H. Davies & Co.; F. B., clerk, Lewers &  
Cooke Co.)

The same address is given for the Angus family in 1905  
and 1910. In 1905 Ethel is listed as a stenographer  
at Alexander & Baldwin and Jean W. as a teacher at the  
Royal School (formerly the Chief's Children's School  
founded and operated by Amos Star and Juliette Cooke)  
located on Emma Street near Lusitana Street.

Page 4 Re Royal School

1905 C. D.:

Canon Alexander MacKintosh, principal

1910 C. D.:

James C. Davis, principal

Page 5

King's Boat House, foot of Punchbowl Street

Page 6

1905-06 C. D.:

Myrtle Boat Club, U. S. Naval Reservation

1910 C. D.:

Myrtle Boat House, Kakaako, Waikiki Channel

No listing for Leialani Boathouse either year

Page 8

Dr. A. Lowell and Mrs. Abigail Willis Smith  
Residence 1838 Nuuanu Avenue, Nuuanu Valley  
Parents of Emma Louise Smith who married B. F.  
Dillingham

Page 14

Josephine Wundenberg wrote "Reminiscences of Hanalei, Kauai," which appeared in the Hawaiian Historical Society's Annual Report in 1930.

Page 18

1900-01 C. D.:

Haalelea Lawn Boarding, Mrs. J. H. Chapin, proprietor  
Richard Street at the corner of Hotel Street

Mrs. Anna A. Haalelea, Richard Street near Central Union Church

1892 C. D.:

John H. and Laura A. Coney (A for Amie?), Richard Street near Hotel and Palace Walk  
John H. Coney, planter



## NOTES FROM DONALD ANGUS, MISS JEAN KENT ANGUS'S NEPHEW

- Page 1 Miss Angus's grandfather was Gideon West. He came here in about 1869 or 1870.
- Page 2 Gideon West came from Nova Scotia. He was a native of Cornwallis, King's County, Nova Scotia. [Information from naturalization papers at the State Archives]
- He bought property on Lunalilo Street near Pensacola Street where he had his home, opposite the Tenny home.
- Page 3 I believe the Globe Hotel was next to where the Angus family lived in back of the old Liberty House.
- My grandmother [Sarah M. Angus], Miss Angus's mother, rented property on Emma Street. It was then, I believe, part of the Campbell Estate or Bush family for the Campbells built a large home next door and it (the property) and where my grandmother rented is part of the grounds of the present Pacific Club. She rented the main house and several cottages and she took in paying guests. It was very well run and the grounds were filled with interesting trees that my grandmother had collected.
- The sister who went to Mills College was Ethel Angus who later married John Howard Ellis. She returned and worked for Alexander and Baldwin.
- Page 5 The Angus family rented a house on the harbor at the foot of Punchbowl Street which then ended at what is now Halekauwila Street. The house is to be seen in old photographs of the harbor. The house was ewa of the King's boathouse and the latter was next to the marine railway (used to haul up ships out of water to make repairs and for cleaning).
- Page 6 Miss Angus taught at Manoa School for quite a few years after she, her mother and her sister Myra moved to 2534 East Manoa Road. Her sister, Myra, was for many years teacher and then principal of Pohukaina School. When her mother died, Jean and Myra rented their home and cottage and moved in with their brother, George, and his wife, Elizabeth. [Donald Angus's parents: George Hibbard and Elizabeth Grace Angus.] Their home was at 2661 Nuuanu Avenue. It was at that time that Jean Angus began to teach at Pohukaina School where her sister had

been and still was the principal.

- Page 9      It was called a marine railway because when the ship got into a certain position, pulleys got the cradle holding up the ship up the railways and out of the water so the ship could be worked on.
- Page 12     I should imagine that Jean and Myra Angus went on an Oriental tour together in about 1910.
- Page 13     Myra W. Angus did not marry. Ethel Angus married John Howard Ellis and they lived at 2140 Armstrong Street, Manoa Valley.
- Page 15     The Kimballs had two sons: George and Richard ("Kingie"). They both have children.  
The nieces my aunt refers to are: Juliet Rice Wichman and Edith Rice Plews. They inherited "Little Britain" near Foremost Dairy on Rycroft Street and the property surrounding it towards the sea was a swamp. This was the property they inherited from an aunt and when the Ala Wai [Canal] was dug the swamp was filled in, including where Ala Moana Shopping Center is today. Thus, each niece, when they put in Keeaumoku Street from King Street to Kapiolani Boulevard, inherited the filled-in land on either side of Keeaumoku Street. That land is now worth a great deal.
- Page 18     Nothing to do with the Vanderbilts. The daughter married Jay Gould.
- Page 19     The house she describes is the one on the waterfront at the foot (then) of Punchbowl Street and where Halekauwila Street is now. It was on the harbor.

August 6, 1980

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## THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In May 1971, the Watumull Foundation initiated an Oral History Project.

The project was formally begun on June 24, 1971 when Katherine B. Allen was selected to interview kamaainas and longtime residents of Hawaii in order to preserve their experiences and knowledge. In July, Lynda Mair joined the staff as an interviewer.

During the next seventeen months, eighty-eight persons were interviewed. Most of these taped oral histories were transcribed by November 30, 1972.

Then the project was suspended indefinitely due to the retirement of the foundation's chairman, Ellen Jensen Watumull.

In February 1979, the project was reactivated and Miss Allen was recalled as director and editor.

Three sets of the final transcripts, typed on acid-free Permalife Bond paper, have been deposited respectively in the Archives of Hawaii, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School.